

Urban District Council of Newbiggin by the Sea

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1967



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OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector	E. BIRKETT, M.A.P.H.I.
Offices of the Medical Officer	156, Woodhorn Road, Ashington.
Clerk to the Medical Officer	Mrs. C. Sampson (resigned July 1967) Miss M. Gibson(commenced Aug. ")
Telephone	Ashington 2287/3442
Offices of the P.H. Inspector	Front Street, Newbiggin-by-Sea.
Clerk to the P.H. Inspector	Mrs. S. Simpson
Telephone	Newbiggin 350

Area in Acres	1,840
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	
mid-1967	9,920
Rateable Value	£221,471
One Penny Rate Produces	£800
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1967)	3,350
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	1,446

To the Chairman and Members of Newbiggin-by-Sea Urban District Council.

Madam Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you the report for the year 1967. Dr. McGregor retired at the end of March 1968, too soon to compile and present the report to you.

The vital statistics were, on the whole, satisfactory. The number of births rose from 138 to 163, giving a standard birth-rate of 16.56 per 1,000 of the population. There were 3 still-births compared with 1 in the previous year, causing a rise in the still-birth rate to 18.0.

The number of deaths fell from 113 to 103, and the standard death rate fell correspondingly from 14.23 to 13.1 per 1,000 of the population. The main causes of death ~~was~~ ^{WERE}, as in previous years, due to diseases of the heart and circulation, followed by deaths due to malignant neoplasms. Nineteen people died from the latter cause, but only 2 of these from malignant neoplasms of the lung and bronchus, showing no increase on the previous year's figure.

Five infants died before reaching one month of age, as compared with 3 in 1966. The increase of 2 deaths caused the infantile mortality rate to rise from 21.74 in 1966 to 31.0 in 1967. The small numbers involved accounted the sharp rise in this rate.

There were no deaths in 1967 from tuberculosis, but 4 new cases were notified including three male respiratory cases and one non-respiratory case in a female. Two of these pulmonary cases were rehoused by the Housing Committee of the Council, into improved housing conditions.

There was an expected increase in the number of cases of measles notified during the year. This began in January and reached its peak towards the end of February. The epidemic had subsided by the end of August and in all, 250 ^{CASES} were notified. Most of the cases occurred in the 5 to 9 age group.

Nineteen cases of whooping cough occurred during the first quarter of the year, but were of a mild type on the whole. Only eight of these cases were known to have been immunised against whooping cough previously.

The five cases of dysentery were a mother and four children all members of one family. The source of infection was not discovered, and no further cases were notified, indicative of the fact that this mother had carried out the instructions given to her on the prevention of spread of the infection.

Following the receipt of a letter from the Ministry of Health in November pointing out that appreciable quantities of lead may be present in domestic water supplies where water has lain overnight in lead supply pipes, two samples of water were sent for analysis, collected first thing in the morning from two of the older houses in Newbiggin. The water was found to be very slightly alkaline (acid water attacks lead in the pipes), and contained less than 0.02 parts per million of lead. This was a satisfactory reading. Subsequently a letter was received from the water undertaking, that the lead content of the water supply was constantly under surveillance.

Finally I must record that the loyal support of the Public Health Inspector, the work of the Health Department Clerk and the interest and support of members of the Council were greatly appreciated during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
K. Dick, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District of Newbiggin-by-Sea.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(figures for England and Wales are in brackets)

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	150	85	65
Illegitimate	13	5	8
	163	90	73

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 16.4
 Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor
 1.01) . 16.56 (17.2)

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	1	1	-
	3	2	1

Rate per 1,000 of the total (live and still) births 18.9 (14.7)

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
103	59	44

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 10.4
 Standard Death Rate (Comparability Factor 1.26 x Crude Death
 Rate) 13.1 (11.2)
 Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-
 General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion Nil
 Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) Nil (0.20)

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	5	3	2
All infants per 1,000 live births 31.0 (18.3)			
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 33.3			
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil			

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	5	3	2
Neonatal Death Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births) 33.3 (12.5)			

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 week</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	2	1
Early Neonatal Death Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) 20.0			
Perinatal Death Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total (live and still) births 36			

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS

		Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	AGE IN YEARS					65-	75 & over
										35-	45-	55-				
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	4	3
		F	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	2
		F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	M	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	-	-	4	2
		F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4
20	Other Heart Disease	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	5
		F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	8
23	Pneumonia	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
		F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Bronchitis	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
		F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
31	Congenital Malformations	M	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
		F	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	All Other Accidents	M	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
		F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES:	M	59	3	-	2	-	-	-	3	4	14	-	-	18	15
		F	44	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	4	-	-	14	20

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN NEWBIGGIN-BY-SEA.

DISEASE	Total Number		% of Total Deaths	
	1966	1967	1966	1967
Diseases of Heart and Circulation	55	43	48.67	41.7
Malignant Neoplasms	17	19	15.04	18.4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	14	17	12.4	16.5
TOTAL	86	79	76.11	76.6

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The following table gives details of the causes of death in the different age groups during the past year.

	1 - 6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10-12 months	Total under 1 year.
Congenital Abnormality	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Septicaemia	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebral Irritation	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Total	4	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	5

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below:-

Specimens sent by		Specimen		Pos.	Neg.
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for pathogenic organisms			4	15
General Practitioner	" " " "			2	-
4 Sensitivity tests were carried out					

Ambulance Facilities.

These are provided by Northumberland County Council ambulances based on the Station at West View, Ashington, where 16 drivers are employed, working three eight-hour shifts, maintaining a 24-hour service.

All ambulances are fitted with radio and can be controlled from a central Control at Wideopen.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

Northumberland County Council is the authority responsible for these services and clinics are held at Jubilee Terrace, Newbiggin and at 18, High Double Row, North Seaton Colliery.

The services include child welfare sessions, ante-natal and cervical cytology clinics and chiropody sessions. The latter are greatly appreciated by the pensioners of the town.

The Mothers' Club associated with the child welfare clinic holds a playgroup for pre-school children on Wednesday afternoons.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years & over	TOTAL
Dysentery	-	1	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Measles	4	60	83	99	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	250
Whooping Cough	3	3	3	8	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Total	7	64	87	109	3	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	274

IMMUNISATION.

This was carried out in the child welfare clinics and for the first time in large numbers, by the general practitioners.

The record of immunisations completed is not, now, available for Newbiggin, alone, but refers to the whole of the Central Area of the County.

In the Central Area in 1967, 912 children completed a primary course of triple antigen, while a further 89 completed a course of diphtheria/tetanus injections.

In addition, 199 older children, not protected in infancy against tetanus, received a primary course of treatment with tetanus vaccine alone.

Re-inforcing injections against diphtheria were given to 2,388 children, against whooping cough to 863 children and against tetanus to 2,217 children.

Poliomyelitis Immunisation.

It is indeed satisfactory to be able to report that no case of poliomyelitis has occurred in Newbiggin ~~during the year~~ ^{FOR SEVENTEEN} years.

In 1967, the number of children who completed a primary course was 958, which compares favourably with the previous year's total of 787.

The number of children receiving a 'booster' dose during the year increased from 1,726 in 1966 to 1,783 in 1967.

The immunisation campaign must continue to be actively pursued, to prevent the resurgence of diphtheria and poliomyelitis and the occurrence of dreaded tetanus.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1967.

	New cases					Deaths				
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Tot	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Tot.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 years & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-

There were no deaths from the disease.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in Newbiggin	NIL
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales	0.037 per 1,000
Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in Newbiggin	NIL
Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales	0.005 per 1,000

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS

The Registrar-General's figures have been used in calculating the death-rates given below.

Malignant Neoplasm of the Lung and Bronchus

Death Rate in Newbiggin-by-Sea	0.202 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	0.584 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All other Sites.

Death Rate in Newbiggin-by-Sea	1.71 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	1.691 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death Rate in Newbiggin-by-Sea	1.9 per 1,000
Death Rate in England and Wales	2.275 per 1,000

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Year ended 31st December, 1967.

Water Supply.

Tynemouth Water Corporation is the Water Undertaker and the supply during the year was adequate in quantity and quality. The average consumption was 27 gallons per head per day. All houses are supplied by public mains and approximately 99.8% have the water piped directly into the house.

Samples Taken.

Newbiggin	2	North seaton Demesne	1
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No coliform bacilli were present in any of the samples.

Sewerage Disposal.

The scheme to connect the seven houses at Woodhorn Allotments to the general drainage scheme met with some difficulty during the year, but it is hoped this will be resolved soon.

Public Cleansing.

This service is provided by the Council and there are twice weekly collections to all houses. Difficulty was experienced with flooding at the Woodhorn Tip after a scheme to close the Blue Holes Burn was not successful but it is hoped that the diversion of the burn water will obviate this.

Public Conveniences.

After a particularly good season, the damage to the Public Conveniences was quite severe and cost the Council approximately £50: -: -d. Complaints were received from visitors to the area, and will obviously continue so long as this public service is maltreated in this way.

Rodent Control.

The following is a summary of the annual return to the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food showing visits made, etc.

Rats	88
Mice	12

An unusually heavy infestation took place in the hedgerows adjoining a wheat field during the year, and was only controlled by a highly concentrated baiting programme. An estimation of the colony from poison consumed put the figure at approximately 250.

The sewerage system at both North Seaton and Newbiggin was selectively baited on two occasions during the year.

Insect Control - Complaints.

Cockroaches	103
Bed Bugs	1
Woodworm	1
Red Fly	1
Clover Mite	50
Golden Spider Beetle	1

Mosquitoes.

The treatment of the breeding grounds with a chemical insecticide controlled the insect and fewer complaints were received.

Clover Mite.

Difficulty was experienced with this insect on the New Moor Estate and many spray treatments were undertaken; it is hoped to construct a concrete pathway around all blocks of houses to alleviate the nuisance.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sects. 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	12	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A.	11	4	-	-
3. Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by L.A. (excl. Outworkers' Premises)	4	-	-	-
Total	27	4	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pros- ecutions were insti- tuted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. By Inspector	H.M.	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-

Caravan Sites

Newbiggin Moor

The site was well tenanted during the year and only nuisance from straying horses caused complaints. Two persons, one a child, were bitten by horses.

Sandy Bay.

After continuous trouble with settlement and recurring drainage problems, a scheme has been drawn up to bypass the existing septic tanks and to pipe the effluent direct to the River Wansbeck via a pipe. Up to the time of this report, no work had started.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1967.

New Houses completed during the year:

a)	By Local Authority	14
b)	By any other Housing Authority	Nil
c)	By Private Persons	4

Closing and Demolition

1.	Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
2.	Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	Nil
3.	Houses closed, not demolished	30
4.	Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	Nil

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or P.H. Acts.

5.	By informal action	Nil
6.	By owners, following statutory notice	3
7.	By local authority in default of owners	Nil
8.	Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Houses Patched.

9.	Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of the year for temporary accommodation	Nil
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Clearance Programme

10.	Number of unfit houses in clearance programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year	330
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<u>IMPROVEMENT GRANTS</u>	No. of separate
<u>Discretionary Grants.</u>	<u>houses.</u>

1.	Applications submitted to local authority	9
2.	Applications rejected	Nil
3.	Applications approved	9
4.	Approximate average grant approved per house	£181
5.	Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme	295

Standard Grants.

	<u>During the</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Total to</u> <u>Date</u>
1.	Number of separate houses for which grants have been made:	15
2.	Number of houses so provided with:	118
a)	Bath or shower	9
b)	Washhand basin	10
c)	Hot water supply	8
d)	Water closet	14
e)	Food store	7

Local Authority Houses.

1.	Total number of houses owned by local authority	1446
2.	Total number of inhabited houses in district	3350

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Inspection.

Newbiggin Co-operative Society Limited continue to operate the only slaughterhouse in the town and conditions there are quite satisfactory.

After 218 visits the following table shows the throughput.

	Bovine excl. Calves	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	532	27	1,446	442
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	2
Carcasses some part or organ cond.	115	-	62	103
Percentage of number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	21.59	--	4.28	23.37
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>				
Percentage of no. affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	0.22
<u>Cysticercosis Only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	--	-	-	-
Carcasses some part or organ of which was condemned	3	-	-	-
Percentage of number affected with Cysticercosis	0.56	-	-	-

Condemnations were as follows:-

Animal Cattle:-

<u>Organ</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation</u>	<u>Approx. Weight.</u>
Head & Tongue	1	Actinobacillosis	30 lbs.
" " "	3	C. Bovis	90 lbs.
Heart	3	C. Bovis	12 lbs.
Lungs	8	Pleurisy	144 lbs.
"	16	Fluke Abscesses	288 lbs.
"	1	Pneumonia	18 lbs.
Liver	72	Fascioliasis	864 lbs.
Liver	9	Abscesses	108 lbs.
Liver	2	Cirrhosis	24 lbs.
Part Livers	51	Fascioliasis	255 lbs.
Part Livers	11	Abscesses	55 lbs.
Thin Skirt	1	Abscess	1 lb.
Trimming	1	Traumatism	1 lb.

Sheep:-

Lungs	13prs.	Muellerius Capillaris	13 lbs.
Lungs	4prs.	Pneumonia	2 lbs.
Livers	38	Flukes	76 lbs.
Livers	1	Pregnancy Toxaemia	2 lbs.
Livers	2	Necrosis	4 lbs.
Target & Lungs	1	Abscess	5 lbs.
Pluck	1	Pleurisy & Peritonitis	5 lbs.

Animal

Pigs:-

<u>Organ</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation</u>	<u>Approx. Weight.</u>
Lungs	150prs.	Pneumonia	160 lbs.
Livers	300	Ascariasis	90 lbs.
Livers	2	Peritonitis	6 lbs.
Loin Trimming	1	Abscess	1 lb.
Heart & Lungs	9	Pericarditis	27 lbs.
Pluck	5	Pleurisy & Peritonitis	35 lbs.
Pluck	1	Pericarditis & Peritonitis	7 lbs.
Pluck	5	Pericarditis & Ascariasis	35 lbs.
Hind Leg	5	Arthritis	20 lbs.
Hind Shanks	2	Arthritis	4 lbs.
Organs & Viscera	2	Pyæmia	} 150 lbs.
Carcase	1	Acute Diffuse Septic Peritonitis	
Carcase	1	Pyæmia	
Head	1	Tuberculosis	9 lbs.

Other Foods.

The following articles of food were found to be unfit for human consumption and were condemned.

230 tins consisting of meat, vegetables, fruit, etc.,	285 lbs.
17 jars preserves	5½ lbs.
1 Box Chinese Rabbits	40 lbs. 6oz.
2 Gravid Uterus	63 lbs.
Boneless Coops	20 lbs.

Poultry Inspection.

Further to a Ministry circular, routine visits are made to a poultry farm in the district where poultry is killed and packed.

No. of Visits	-	48
No. of Birds Inspected	-	3,061
No. of Birds Condemned	-	74

Shops Inspections.

During the year 124 visits were made to premises covered by the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960. Six notices have been served.

Food and Drugs Act 1955, Section 2.

Food not of the Nature, Substance or Quality demanded.

1. Piece of glass alleged to have been in cake but no evidence of cake. Investigated but no action taken.

Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Regulation 1966.

Regular inspections of food carrying vehicles have been made.

